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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/929,610	08/13/2001	Ronald E. Sloan	60021.375802	9691

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EXAMINER

GREIMEL, JOCELYN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3693

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	03/21/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/929,610	Applicant(s) SLOAN ET AL.	
	Examiner Jocelyn Greimel	Art Unit 3693	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 December 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5, 8-15, 18-24 and 27-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5, 8-15, 18-24 and 27-29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>9/15/06, 11/2/06</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. The following is a Final Office Action in response to Applicant's Amendments and Remarks of 18 December 2006.

Status of Claims

2. Claims 1-5, 8-15, 18-24 and 27-29 are pending. Claims 6-7, 16-17 and 25-26 have been canceled.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.
5. **Claims 1-5, 8-15, 18-24 and 27-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Atkins (US Patent No. 5,875,437) in view of Sullivan et al (US Patent No. 6,615,240B1, hereinafter Sullivan) and further in view of Leemhuis**

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(US Patent No. 6,470,325). In reference to claims 1, 11 and 20, Atkins discloses a method, system and computer program for developing a financial plan comprising:

- a. projecting expected yearly income for a period of time; projecting expected yearly expenses for said period of time; and providing at least one of the investment advice for any surplus of income over expenses and financing advice for any deficit of income over expenses (abstract; at least: col. 7, line 19 – col. 11, line 64).

6. In reference to claims 2, 12 and 21, Atkins discloses the method wherein the user income and expense history resident on external databases can be accessed by the model (abstract; at least: col. 7, line 19 – col. 11, line 64).

7. In reference to claims 3, 13 and 22, Atkins discloses the method wherein the user can introduce risk events into the model (abstract; at least: col. 7, line 19 – col. 11, line 64).

8. In reference to claims 4, 14 and 23, Atkins discloses the method wherein the risk event includes at least one of: job loss, disability, casualty, market downturn, theft, fire or collision (abstract; at least: col. 7, line 19 – col. 11, line 64).

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9. In reference to claims 5, 15 and 24, Atkins discloses the method wherein the model predicts and highlights potential cash surplus and cash flow shortage for the use (abstract; at least: col. 7, line 19 – col. 11, line 64).

10. In reference to claims 8-10, 18-19 and 27-29, Atkins discloses the method wherein the financial model displays the aggregate cash flow in the form of a timeline over a defined period of time; wherein each annual point of said timeline can be interactively dragged up and down on its vertical axis; and the financial model recalculates the aggregated cash flow based on the new positions of said annual points (abstract; at least: col. 7, line 19 – col. 11, line 64).

11. In reference to the above claims (claims 1, 11, 20 and their dependent claims), Atkins discloses providing over the wide area network, accessible customized automated coaching directly to a user (abstract, at least: col. 7, line 19 – col. 11, line 64) but does not disclose:

b. counseling by a live advisor.

However, Sullivan discloses counseling by a live advisor in addition to automated coaching directly to a user (abstract; at least col. 2, line 11 – col. 3, line 67). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the Applicant's invention to have modified the automated coaching of Atkins to include the live advisor function of Sullivan because it would (1) increase the efficiency of the system for the

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user, (2) user satisfaction would increase and (3) the advisor system would benefit from increase efficiency.

12. In reference to the above claims (claims 1, 11, 20 and their dependent claims), the system of Atkins and Sullivan discloses a method, system and apparatus for the financial planning method and system as detailed above including the financial projecting and the automated and live advising. The Atkins and Sullivan system does not disclose:

- c. Providing over the wide area network, a user-selected service level agreement from a plurality of available unique service level agreements, where each of the unique service level agreements includes a unique combination of available access to at least one of the automated coaching and the live advisor.

However, Leemhuis discloses a method, system and apparatus for financial planning that:

- provides over the wide area network, a user-selected service level agreement from a plurality of available unique service level agreements (col. 2, line 35+; service contracts for the financial planning, having different predetermined durations), where each of the unique service level agreements includes a unique combination of available access to at least one of the automated coaching and the live advisor.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the Applicant's invention to have modified the Atkins and Sullivan financial system with the

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service level agreement selection process of Leemhuis because the agreement would allow the customer to design the service level to their specifications.

Response to Arguments

13. Applicant's arguments with respect to the claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection, necessitated by amendment.

Conclusion

14. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a). A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

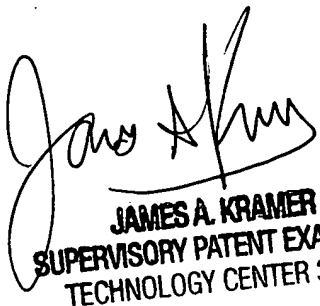
15. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jocelyn Greimel whose telephone number is (571) 272-

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3734. The examiner can normally be reached Monday - Friday 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM EST. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Kramer can be reached at (571) 272-6783. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

16. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Jocelyn Greimel
Examiner, Art Unit 3693
February 21, 2007

 3/13/07
JAMES A. KRAMER
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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